



Cré 6th Annual Conference – May 4th 2006 - Enfield

Cré invites you to attend the 6th Annual Composting Conference & Exhibition. This year's theme is "Putting Down Roots". This year venue is the Marriott Johnstown House Hotel & Spa, Enfield, Co. Meath.

The conference will have features **presentations** on the National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste, collection of the brown bin positive planning of composting facilities and markets for compost.

Trade Exhibition of equipment suppliers, technologies & consultants.

Poster Exhibition of research in Ireland.

Display of compost generated in Ireland.

Field trip to a wheat crop trial using green waste compost (limited spaces).

All conference details (booking forms, programme and venue details) can be downloaded from www.cre.ie. Cré delegates can also avail of accommodation at the Hotel venue (www.marriottjohnstownhouse.com) at a reduced rate of €105 for B&B.

Alternatively contact Percy Foster at percy@cre.ie or tel: 086-8129260. The last date for registration is April 28th.



Minister Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with Conor Walsh, Chair of Cré announcing the 6th Annual Cré Conference.

Minister Roche is the keynote speaker of the Cré Conference.

Newsletter sponsored by



CRÉ CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

POLICY TRUNK - THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

- **The National Strategy - Dick Roche TD**, Minister for the Environment, Heritage, & Local Government
- **The National Strategy - Brendan O'Neill & Pat Macken**, Department of Environment
- **Industry Reaction to the National Strategy - Conor Walsh, Cré (Thortons Recycling)**

FEEDING THE SYSTEM

- **Collection & Facilities Update** – Conall Boland, RPS Group
- **Rising to the Challenge: Collection of Biowaste and proposals for Biowaste Treatment in the Dublin Region-** Eamonn Walsh & Mary McCarthy, Fingal County Council
- **Case Study of Public Relations Management of a Developing Biowaste Facility-** Judith Hally, Greenstar
- **Producer's Perspective** - Mick Storan, Onyx Ireland

OFF TO THE MARKET

- **Use of Compost in Landscaping and Sports Fields (A European Experience)** - Morten Carlsbaek, Solum Denmark
- **Bagging & Retail** – Vincent Phelan, Organic Gold (Marketing) Ltd.
- **Potential for the Use of Compost in Commercial Agriculture** – Jerry Bird, OCAE Consultants

CRÉ – PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

- **Review for the Future-** Conor McGovern, Chair of Cré
- **Funding the Future** – Dr. Munoo Prasad, Chair of the Cré Technical Committee

IN THE FIELD (LIMITED SPACES)

- **A Short Guided Field Trip to View a Winter Wheat Crop Trial using Green Waste Compost**

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Cré Executive Administrator

Dear Cré members,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Percy Foster as the Cré Executive Administrator. Percy will be familiar to you, having previously served as the Association Secretary prior to Lorraine Herity. Percy has a degree in Environmental Science and recently submitted his Masters Degree by Research on vermicomposting dairy wastewater sludge. He has also done consultancy work on the operation and the assessment of an in-vessel composting system. So he is technically familiar with the issues of composting as well as the mechanics of Cré as an Association.

In the Executive Administrator role, Percy will take on the executive duties of Association Secretary as well as others. These tasks will include the following

- Maintain and promote membership of the Association
- Promote Association activities, programme and events to members and potential members
- Organise and coordinate membership meetings, AGM and annual seminar
- Produce quarterly newsletter
- Manage and update the Association web site
- Update and produce the Association's annual Directory of Members
- Work with media to attract publicity for the Association
- Organise and/or develop Association training sessions and workshops
- Coordinate and support the Technical and PR Work teams
- Assist with Association lobbying efforts
- Undertake Association fund-raising efforts including conference sponsorships, grant proposals and membership drives
- Increase membership in the Association
- Assist the Association Treasurer in management of bookkeeping, production of annual financial reports, preparation of tax reports
- Manage the Association's grant projects and training programmes

Percy will also be taking a lead role in some significant projects including;

- The development of a training course for Compost Facility operators. Percy is already investigating options for accreditation of this course.
- Development of an industry led quality assurance scheme and standard for composts. It is hoped that this project will receive approval and commence this summer.
- Organisation of the Cré Annual Seminar

This appointment is a paid position for a period of six months and is a "pump-priming exercise" to facilitate the organisation to grow as it needs to. A major task will be to develop funding opportunities that are available but that Cré has not been able to access on a voluntary basis. Therefore, I would ask that you continue to support Cré during this growing period.

Please note that Percy's contact details are as follows; Telephone 086 812 9260 Email; percy@cre.ie. Address; PO Box 310, Naas, Co. Kildare. We hope to have an office organised for Percy shortly and will notify you of these details when available.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to Lorraine Herity for the sterling work she has done for the Association during the last number of years. Her enthusiasm, energy and knowledge have made significant contribution towards making Cré the Association it is today. The smooth organisation of the last two annual seminars and of themed meetings in the last two years and of AGMs and of all of the other administrative items that keep Cré on the road can be attributed to Lorraine. I would also like to thank her employers RPS Consulting Engineers for supporting Lorraine in this role.

I hope you will join me in welcoming Percy to his new position and in thanking Lorraine for her contribution.

Best regards,

Conor McGovern

Chair of Cré, conor@cre.ie.

Cré Presentation to the Joint Committee on Environment and Local Government

Conor McGovern (Chair of Cré) and Conall Boland (Technical Committee of Cré) made a presentation on behalf of Cré to the Joint Committee on Environment and Local Government on 1st Feb 2006. The main points presented were (1) Landfill Directive (2) Source Separation Policy: "Brown Bin Collection" (3) Compost Quality Assurance Proposal (4) Market Development for Compost (5) Training Scheme for composting. The presentation can be downloaded from www.cre.ie. The presentation was well received and supported offer to Cré by members of the Dáil. Transcripts from the meeting can be downloaded as follows; <http://debates.oireachtas.ie>, click on committees, click on Committee on Environment & Local Government and click on 1st February – Waste Management.

Animal-by-Product Conference, 22nd February

The Department of Agriculture and Food organised a conference on 22nd February for the biowaste management industry on the Animal by-products Regulation theme. The conference was an information day to try to clarify some of the issues around the Animal by-products Regulation. This issue has been confused by a lack of clarity on policy direction from Europe which has changed numerous items of the Regulation since implementing it. The Department of Agriculture and Food have taken a very precautionary approach in reaction to this.

The Department of Agriculture and Food main points were

- Total ban on application of animal by-products derived compost or digestate to pastureland remains.
- Some relaxation on former foodstuffs (from supermarkets etc) – cooked meats will be acceptable.
- Alternative time temperature conditions will be considered, but proving them is likely to be difficult and costly.

Successful Representation Results in EU Commission Permitting the Use of Source Separated Household Waste Compost Use in Organic Farming

Pursuant to Annex II (A) of (EC) Reg. 2092/91 the use of Composted Household Waste in organic farming was allowed only for a transitional period until 31 March 2006 in Europe.

The DG Agriculture and Rural Development met on 24th March to discuss this matter. Prior to this meeting, Cré along with the European Compost Network and FEAD (represents the European waste management industry) made representation to the DG Agriculture and Rural Development on the Commission's proposal (use of compost in organic farming). This combined effort successfully resulted in **positive vote for the prolongation without any time limitation, of the use of biowaste (separately collected household waste) compost in organic farming** accepted by the Standing Committee for Organic Farming.

Today quality assured compost plays an important role in organic farming and horticulture. Furthermore compost has proven to be an important substitute for peat in organic potting soils and growing media used for transplants. Compost also has shown considerable phytohygienic effects by suppressing a number of plant diseases in horticulture and transplant production. Biowaste composting and compost use in agriculture matches one of the key principles of organic farming: the recycling of clean organic sources from landscape and food production via composting to the soil.

Some major outstanding issues remain;

- Total ban on application of animal by-products derived compost or digestate to pastureland is a potential industry killer especially when combined with the Nitrates Directive restrictions. The National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste requires significant compost generation, all of which will require outlets, primarily agricultural land.
- Clear and final advice is required wherever possible. Changing advice (even when improving in favour of the industry) can place some facilities at competitive disadvantage. This may be partly out of National hands due to policy changes at European level. However, Cré requested ongoing consultation and availability at local level.

The Cré and Department of Agriculture and Food presentations for the day are available on the Cré website (www.cre.ie).

In Europe this is done under stringent quality management rules and approved by independent quality assurance organisations authorised by the competent authority. In addition the use of compost has to be recognised by the inspection body or the inspection authority for each farm respecting the general fertilisation rules of Annex I of (EC) Reg. 2092/91.

In some areas, organic farmers participate in on farm composting systems (agricultural composting), running composting plants for organic household waste (e.g. in Austria ca. 100 farms). The compost is used mainly in arable land, where life stock is below marginal levels. In some cases, besides proper crop rotation and soil management, compost is the only viable source to maintain or increase the soil organic matter content in order to improve soil fertility functions.

Therefore it is of significant importance to continue the good practice of recycling of composted organic waste including source separated organic household waste to organically managed farms and soils.

Cré AGM

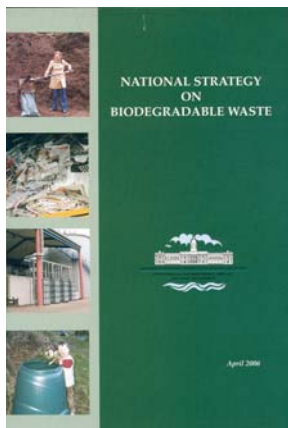
The AGM is on 4th July, venue to be confirmed.



National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste

The long awaited National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste (NSBW) was launched on 6th April 2006 by Minister Dick Roche TD for Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The document can be downloaded from www.environ.ie or from www.cre.ie.



At the Cré Conference on 4th May, Minister Roche will outline the NSBW, followed by a more detailed presentation on it by Brendan O'Neill and Pat Macken of the DoE. This will then be followed by Cré on the industry reaction to it. Cré would like to hear views on the NSBW and please email your comments to percy@cre.ie for inclusion in the presentation.

The NSBW has targets for operational capacity to treat source separated food and garden waste by composting and anaerobic digestion for the following years;

- 2010 250,000 tonnes minimum
- 2013 320,000 tonnes minimum
- 2016 330,000 tonnes minimum

The NSBW has requested Cré to led initiatives in relation to a Procurement Handbook, Compost Quality Certification Scheme and Marketing Plan Handbook.

Nitrate Directive Discourages the Use of Compost on Agricultural Land in Ireland

Most people have heard about the issue of the impact of the Nitrate Directive on the farming community in Ireland. It may also have catastrophic implications for the development of agriculture as a market for compost. Cré wishes to draw the attention of the biowaste management industry to this situation.

Under the Nitrates legislation, (S.I. 788 of 2005) if a tillage farmer applies any organic material on his/her crop, (compost, pig manure, cattle manure, industrial sludge, spent mushroom compost or waste water treatment plant sludge) the crop will automatically get a Nitrogen Index 4 (Table 10 in S.I. 788) which means for example a farmer growing winter wheat is restricted to only 60kg/ha of nitrogen (Table 16 in S.I. 788). This is significantly below the nitrogen demand of the crop. To put this figure into context, if the same farmer with same crop did not use organic material and used

artificial fertiliser instead, the crop would get a nitrogen Index 1 and be allowed 190kg/ha of nitrogen. This limitation obviously has serious implications for commercial arable production, encourages chemical fertiliser use and makes organic material use unviable.

The recently announced National Strategy on Biodegradable Waste indicated that the main market for compost is agriculture. S.I. 788 in its present format will prevent the development of this market.

The composting industry cannot develop without the use of compost in agriculture. Cré calls upon the Minister for Agriculture and Food, and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to urgently amend this situation. We also ask Cré members to lobby their local politicians and to support the Irish Farmers Association campaign to have this legislation amended.

MBT Themed Meeting 26th January 2006

The themed meeting on "Mechanical Biological Treatment" (MBT) was held in Ashbourne followed by a site visit to SRS MBT facility operated by Panda Waste outside Navan, Co. Meath. The meeting was well attended with 120 delegates.

Presentations were given by;

Mr. Wolfgang Müller - Ingenieurgesellschaft Witzenhausen Fricke & Turk GmbH, The Role of MBT in Europe.

- Mr. Larry O' Toole, RPS Consulting Engineers - Role of MBT within Waste Management Planning In Ireland
- Mr. Martin Sheehan Jnr, Mr. Binman, MBT Technology / Overview of an Operational MBT Plant in Ireland / Market Outlets For End Products
- Mr. Alan Fallon, Sustainable Recycling Solutions, Introduction to the SRS MBT plant in Meath as part of site visit.

All the presentations can be downloaded from www.cre.ie.

Next Issue of the Cré newsletter

- Green Waste Composting themed meeting
- Review of the 6th Cré Conference
- Cré Composting Facility Operators Course

If you have any items of composting news please email them to info@cre.ie.